

Letters



Dear Sir,

I read with great interest your report on the control covers on Aichi boom lifts and also more recently your item on your web site about Broken Hill insisting that aerial work platforms are fitted with bars over the control box due to some recent accidents. While I have heard, of course, of accidents where a machine operator is crushed against the controls it is a rare occurrence.

The trouble with adding things such as grids or bars over the top of the controls is that while meaning to stop one type of accident it might just kick off another problem? For example trapping hands or arms under the cover or encouraging the use of the bar as a resting support for awkward items like long tubes, that might then fall from the platform?

I think you have to be careful when adding something like this to solve what is - it seems - a rare problem that you do not then trigger the cause of a more common problem.

I do agree that this is something that should be discussed by the industry but we should keep our eyes wide open regarding the knock-on effects. Keep up the good work.

Roy Williams
Aberdeen

Hi,

You might have already heard of this tower crane accident in Russia (Ekaterinburg), if not the details are here for you to see. Guy you do some great work. I only hope in our country will be some more interest about safetiness. My husband is very skillful operator here, claimed to be one of the best. He works only as substitute operator calling on site when other ones want some free time. Because of that they are working from minimum 10 to 14 hours daily... That is very sad. We've heard about one guy who has made 435 hours in one month!

This is because of companies which are working these hours and unfortunately the greed of some operators.

Joanna ***** wife of a crane operator from Poland, fortunately still, I hope, safe - now at work.

The full name was supplied but we decided not to publish it just in case

Ed: We also received a phone call on this issue from a reader in Southern England who made a similar point, regarding operators placing or resting things on the lean bar. We are planning a new editorial and poll on this subject in the coming weeks and would appreciate you sending us your comments.

'Lies, damn lies and statistics'

Despite a very positive feed-back on the spider crane feature in last month's *Cranes & Access* we incorrectly omitted some tabular information. Kranlyft - Maeda's European master distributor - spotted that we failed to include the fact that its range of machines are all available with electric power as well as the diesel/petrol engines we listed.

Publishing charts and tables is a quick and easy method for readers to compare a vast amount of information. However it is also a minefield as compiling this information will occasionally result in the odd error. Missing key information is serious as we always try to provide as much information as possible.

Kranlyft also questioned the fact that we suggested that Unic cranes might have the edge in terms of European sales. As there is no official exchange of sales figures, there is a 'grey area' around any figures given. No-one disagrees that Maeda has about 75 percent of the global market, and over the last 12 months Kranlyft has certainly won a significant number of multiple orders.

Based on the information we have been given since the article, we would estimate that Kranlyft has around 45 percent of the European market for the period just ahead of Unic, with the others - primarily Jekko - making up the rest.

Until sales figures are openly and honestly exchanged between manufacturers, there is always room for disagreement. Hopefully this has addressed the problem, however by quoting a percentage figure we may well be opening ourselves up to more disputes? C'est la vie!

Letters to the editor:

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